

Era: The Beginnings of Human Society

Why Study World History?

Studying History

Describe how we can improve our understanding of people's actions and beliefs through the study of history.

Explain why history is the study of the past.

Identify how historians use clues from various sources to learn about the past.

Studying Geography

Describe how geography and history are closely connected.

Discuss why studying location is important to both physical and human geography.

Explain why geography is the study of places and people.

The Beginnings of Human Society

The First People

Describe how hunter-gatherer societies developed language, art, and religion.

Describe how stone aged tools grew more complex as time passed.

Describe why scientists study the remains of early humans to learn about prehistory.

Explain why hominids and early humans first appeared in East Africa millions of years ago.

The Beginnings of Human Migration

Describe how people adapted to new environments by making clothing and new types of tools.

Explain why people moved out of Africa as the earth's climates changed.

The Beginnings of Agriculture

Describe how the first farmers learned to grow plants and raise animals in the New Stone Age.

Identify how farming changed societies and the way people lived.

Era: Early Civilizations

The Fertile Crescent of the Ancient Middle East

Geography of the Fertile Crescent

Describe how new farming techniques led to the growth of cities.

Explain how rivers of southwest Asia supported the growth of civilization.

The Rise of Sumer

Describe how the Sumerians created the world's first advanced society.

Identify how religion played a major role in Sumerian society.

Sumerian Achievements

Describe how advances and inventions changed Sumerian lives.

Describe the types of art that developed in Sumer.

Explain how the Sumerians invented the world's first writing system.



Later Societies of the Fertile Crescent

Describe how the invasions of Mesopotamia changed the region's culture.

Explain how the Phoenicians built a trading society in the eastern Mediterranean region.

Identify how the Babylonians conquered Mesopotamia and created a code of law.

The Ancient Israelites and Judaism

The First Israelites

Describe why the Israelites had to fight the Canaanites to return to their promised land.

Explain how the Israelites believed in one God who set down moral laws for his people.

The Kingdom of Israel

Describe why the Israelites were conquered and forced to leave Israel and Judah.

Explain why the Israelites chose a king to unite them against their enemies.

Identify how King David built an Israelite empire and make Jerusalem his capital city.

The Growth of Judaism

Describe how religion shaped the Jewish way of life.

Explain how the Jews spread their beliefs to the Greek world and regained control of Judah.

Explain why under Roman rule, the Jews were divided and rebellious. In response, the Romans destroyed the temple and exiled the Jews.

Identify why the Jews continued their religion during their exile in Babylon.

Ancient Egypt

Geography of the Nile

Describe how geography of the Nile changes as the river runs its course.

Identify the types of communities that first appeared along the Nile, and how the Nile was used for trade.

Ancient Rulers of Egypt

Describe Egypt's accomplishments during each of the three kingdom periods.

Explain the history of kinship in ancient Egypt.

Identify what characterized the rule of Egypt during the New Kingdom period.

Egyptian Religion

Describe Egyptian gods and goddesses.

Describe how and why the pharaoh's tombs were built.

Identify the Egyptians beliefs in the afterlife.

Ancient Egyptian Culture

Describe the writings of ancient Egypt.

Explain the every day life of the ancient Egyptians.

Identify advances made by the Egyptians in science and medicine.



The Cultures of Nubia

Describe the Nubian kingdoms centered in Kerma, Napata, and Meroe.

Explain the relationship between Nubian and Egypt.

Early India

Geography and Early India

Describe how the Harappan civilization developed along the Indus River.

Discuss how the Aryan invasion of India changed the region's civilization.

Explain why the geography of India includes high mountains, great rivers, and heavy seasonal rain.

Origins of Hinduism

Describe how Hinduism developed out of Brahmanism and influences from other cultures.

Explain why the Aryans practiced a religion known as Brahmanism.

Identify how Indian society divided into distinct groups under the Aryans.

Identify why the Jains reacted to Hinduism by breaking away to form their own religion.

Origins of Buddhism

Describe the many ways Siddhartha Gautama searched for wisdom.

Explain how the teachings of Buddhism dealt with finding peace.

Identify how Buddhism spread far from where it began in India.

Indian Empires

Define how the Mauryan Empire unified most of India.

Explain how Gupta rulers promoted Hinduism in their empire.

Indian Achievements

Describe the great works of religious art created by Indian artists.

Explain how Sanskrit literature flourished during the Gupta period.

Identify how the Indians made scientific advances in metalworking, medicine, and other sciences.

Ancient China

The Geography of China's River Valleys

Discuss early civilizations in China.

Explain the importance of family ties in early Chinese society.

Identify the geography of ancient China.

Confucius and His Teachings

Describe the life of Confucius.

Explain the influences Confucianism had on Chinese society.

Explain the teachings of Confucius.



Warring Kingdoms Unite

Explain how Emperor Shi Huangdi attempted to unify the economy and culture of China.

Explain the rise of the Qin dynasty.

Identify the action's of the Han dynasty leaders.

Significant Achievements of Ancient Chinese Culture

Describe the important advances in technology that were made in China during the Han dynasty.

Describe the Silk Road.

Identify the Han dynasty's respect for tradition and learning.

Era: New Empires

Ancient Greece

The Early Greeks

Describe how Mycenaeans built the first Greek kingdoms and spread their power across the Mediterranean region.

Describe how the geography of Greece influenced where people settled and what they did.

Explain how the idea of citizenship developed in Greek city-states.

Explain how the Minoans earned their living by building ships and trading.

Identify how colonies and trade spread Greek culture and spurred industry.

Sparta and Athens

Describe how the Spartans focused on military skills to control the people they conquered.

Explain how tyrants were able to seize power from the nobles with the support of Greek farmers, merchants, and artisans.

Identify why the Athenians were more interested in building a democracy than building a military force.

Persian Attacks on the Greeks

Describe why both Sparta and Athens played roles in defeating the Persians.

Explain why the Persian Empire united a wide area under a single government.

The Age of Pericles

Describe how Athens became very powerful and more democratic under the leadership of Pericles.

Explain how Athenian men and women had different roles.

Identify the reasons Sparta and Athens went to war for control of Greece.

Greek Civilization

Ancient Grecian Culture

Describe how Greek drama still shapes entertainment today.

Explain how Greek art and architecture expressed Greek ideas of beauty and harmony.

Explain why the Greeks believed that gods and goddesses controlled nature and shaped their lives.

Identify how Greek poetry and fables thought Greek values.



Greek Philosophy and History

Explain why the Greeks wrote the first real histories in Western civilization.

Identify the ideas Greek philosophers developed that are still used today.

Alexander the Great

Describe how Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire and spread Greek culture throughout southwest Asia.

Explain how Phillip II of Macedonia united the Greek states.

The Spread of Greek Culture

Describe how Epicurus and Zeno showed the world different ways to look at happiness.

Explain how Hellenistic scientists made major discoveries in math and astronomy.

Identify why the Hellenistic cities became centers of learning and culture.

Roman Civilization

Daily Roman Life

Describe the importance of family life in Roman society.

Explain how Romans of different social classes lived.

Explain the existence of slavery in ancient Rome.

Identify who could be a Roman citizen.

The Byzantine Empire

Explain why the Byzantines developed rich culture based on Roman, Greek, and Christian ideas.

Explain why the policies and reforms of Emperor Justinian and Empress Theodora helped make the Byzantine Empire strong.

Identify how the Eastern Roman Empires grew rich and powerful as the Western Roman Empires fell.

Ancient Rome

Rome's Beginnings

Describe how the Roman's created a republic and conquered Italy. Explain how they built Rome from a small city into a great power simply by treating people fairly.

Explain how geography played an important role in the rise of Roman civilizations.

The Roman Republic

Describe how Rome slowly destroyed the Carthaginian Empire and took control of the entire Mediterranean region.

Explain why Rome's republic was shaped by a struggle between wealthy landowners and regular citizens as it gradually expanded the right to vote.

The Fall of the Republic

Describe how the Roman Republic, weakened by civil war, became an empire under Augustus.

Explain why military hero Julius Caesar seized power and made reforms.

Identify why the use of enslaved labor hurt farmers, increased poverty and corruption, and brought the army into politics.



The Fall of Rome

Discuss Constantine's role in support of Christianity.

Discuss the fall of the Roman Empire.

Explain how bad government contributed to the decline of the Empire.

Explain how northern invaders brought about the collapse of the Roman Empire.

The Early Empire

Describe how Rome's system of roads, aqueducts, ports, and common currency made the empire rich and prosperous.

Explain why Augustus created a new era of prosperity by expanding the empire and reorganizing the military and government.

The Rise of Christianity

Early Christians

Explain how Jesus' life and belief in resurrection led to a new religion called Christianity.

Explain why Jesus of Nazareth was crucified and eventually reported to have risen from the dead.

Identify how the Roman rule of Judea led some Jews to oppose Rome peacefully, while other rebelled.

The Christian Church

Describe how early Christians set up a church organization and explained their beliefs.

Explain how Christianity eventually became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

The Spread of the Christian Faith

Discuss how church and government worked closely together in the Byzantine Empire.

Identify how Christians founded new communities and spread their faith to various parts of Europe.

Islamic Civilization

The Roots of Islam

Describe how the new religion called Islam, founded by the prophet Muhammad, spread throughout Arabia in the 600s.

Discuss how the two ways of life, nomadic and sedentary, in the Arabian desert developed.

Islamic Beliefs and Practices

Describe how the Islamic law is based on the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

Explain how the Qur'an guides Muslims' lives.

Identify how the Sunnah tells Muslims of important duties expected of them.

Islamic Empires

Describe how trade helped Islam spread into new areas.

Explain how Muslim armies conquered many lands into which Islam slowly spread.

Identify the three Muslim empires that controlled much of Europe, Asia, and Africa from the 1400s to the 1800s.

Cultural Achievements

Discuss how Muslim achievements in literature and the arts included beautiful poetry, memorable short stories, and splendid architecture.

Identify how Muslim scholars made lasting contributions to the fields of science and philosophy.



Era: Regional Civilizations

Early African Civilizations

The Rise of African Civilizations

Describe Africa's vast and varied landscape.

Explain how East African kingdoms and states become centers for trade and new ideas.

Explain how West African empires grew rich from trade.

Identify how Africa's rain forest blocked invaders and provided resources.

Africa's Government and Religion

Describe how Islam played an important role in medieval Africa, but long-held African beliefs and customs still remained.

Explain how the growth of West African empires led to the growth of centralized governments ruled by kings.

Identify traditional African religions and explain how they shared different beliefs and provided a guide for living together.

African Society and Culture

Describe how the Bantu migrations helped shape many cultures in Africa south of Sahara.

Explain how enslaved Africans developed rich cultures that influenced many other cultures, including our own.

Explain how the African slave trade changed greatly when Muslims and Europeans began taking captives from the continent.

Early Civilizations of the Americas

Early Americans

Describe how early people in the northern part of the Americas built complex cultures based on farming and trade.

Explain why it is believed that the first people in the Americas came from Asia during the Ice Age.

Identify why the invention of farming led to the rise of civilizations in the Americas.

Life in the Americas

Describe how the Maya adjusted to life in the tropical rain forest and built a culture based on their religious beliefs.

Explain how the Aztec moved into the Valley of Mexico where they created an empire based on conquest and war.

Explain how the geography in lands north of the present-day Mexico shaped the development of many different Native American cultures.

Identify how the Incan rules set up a highly organized government and society.

The Crumbling of the Aztec and Inca Empires

Describe how Christopher Columbus found the Americas while trying to find a sea rout to Asia.

Describe how the riches of the Aztec Empire led other Spanish conquerors to seek their fortunes in South America.

Identify how Spanish conquerors defeated the Aztec with the help of horses, guns, and European disease.

Classical China

China Reunifies

Describe how China was reunified under the Sui, Tang, and Song dynasties.

Explain why the period of disunion was a time of war and disorder that followed the end of the Han dynasty.

Identify how the Age of Buddhism saw major religious changes in China.



The Achievements of Tang and Song

Describe how the Tang and Song dynasties produced fine arts and inventions.

Explain how cities and trade grew during the Tang and Song dynasties.

Identify how advances in agriculture led to increased trade and population growth.

Confucianism and the Government

Describe how Confucianism underwent changes and influenced Chinese government.

Explain how scholar-officials ran China's government during the Song dynasty.

The Yuan and Ming Dynasties

Describe how the Ming dynasty was a time of stability and prosperity.

Explain why the Mongol empire included China, and the Mongols ruled China as the Yuan dynasty.

Identify why China under the Ming dynasty had great changes in its government and relations with other countries.

The Great Mughal Empire in India

Describe the founding and achievements of the Mughal Empire.

Describe the geography of the Indian subcontinent.

Explain the Delhi Sultanate, a period of Muslim rule.

Japan

Early Japan

Explain how Prince Shotoku created Japan's first constitution and borrowed many ideas from China.

Explain how the Japanese religion, called Shinto, was based on nature spirits.

Explain why Japan was settled by people who came from northeast Asia.

Identify how Japan's mountains and islands isolated Japan and shaped its society.

Shoguns and Samurai

Describe how Japan's civilian government and the emperor came to be dominated by military rulers known as shoguns.

Explain how Japan broke into warring kingdoms led by the dynamo when the shogun's power weakened.

Explain how the Japanese built a strong national government at Nara in the 700s.

Life in Medieval Japan

Describe how Buddhism and Shinto shaped much of Japan's culture and explain how these religions affected Japanese art, architecture, novels, and plays.

Describe how some Japanese nobles, merchants, and artisans grew wealthy during the shogun period, but the lives of women remained restricted in many areas of life.



Era: The Age of Encounter

The Early Middle Ages

Europe after the Fall of Rome

Describe how invaders threatened much of Europe in the 700s and 800s.

Explain how Christianity spread to northern Europe through the work of missionaries and monks.

Identify how the Franks, led by Charlemagne, created a huge Christian empire and brought together scholars from around Europe.

Geography of Europe

Describe how geography has shaped life in Europe, including where and how people live.

Explain why the physical features of Europe vary widely from region to region.

Feudalism and Manor Life

Describe how feudalism spread through much of Europe.

Describe how towns and trade grew and helped end the feudal system.

Explain how feudalism governed how knights and nobles dealt with each other.

Identify how the major systems dominated Europe's economy.

Feudal Societies

Describe how feudal societies shared common elements in Europe and Japan.

Identify how Europe and Japan differed in their cultural elements such as religion and art.

The Later Middle Ages

Popes and Kings

Describe how popes and kings ruled Europe as spiritual and political leaders.

Explain why popes fought for power, leading to a permanent split within the church.

Identify why kings and popes clashed over some issues.

The Crusades

Describe how the crusades changed Europe forever.

Explain why despite some initial success, the later crusades failed.

Explain why the popes called on Crusaders to invade the Holy Land.

Christianity and Medieval Society

Describe how the church influenced the arts in medieval Europe.

Explain why orders of monks and friars did not like the church's political nature.

Identify how church leaders helped build the first universities in Europe.

Identify how the Christian church shaped both society and politics in medieval Europe.



Political and Social Change

Explain how the Black Death, which swept through Europe in the Middle Ages, led to social changes.

Explain why Magna Carta caused changes in England's government and legal system.

Identify how the Hundred Years' War led to political changes in England and France.

Challenges to Church Authority

Describe how Christians fought Moors in Spain and Portugal in an effort to drive all Muslims out of Europe.

Describe why the Jews faced discrimination across Europe in the Middle Ages.

Explain why the church reacted to challengers by punishing people who opposed its teachings.

The Renaissance and Reformation

The Renaissance Begins

Describe how the wealthy urban society of the Italian city-states brought a rebirth of learning and art to Europe.

Explain why nobles of Italian city-states lived in cities and were active in trade, banking, and public life.

Identify how Italy's location helped its city-states grow wealthy from trade and banking, but many of the cities fell under the control of strong rulers.

New Ideas and Art

Describe how Renaissance ideas and art spread from Italy to northern Europe.

Explain how the invention of the printing press helped expand the ideas of the Humanists.

Identify how Renaissance artists used new techniques to produce paintings that showed people in an emotional and realistic way.

The Reformation Begins

Describe how John Calvin's Protestant teachings spread across Europe and into North America.

Explain how the reforms of Martin Luther led to the creation of new Christian churches.

Explain why political leaders often supported Protestantism because they wanted more power.

Catholics and Protestants

Describe how Henry VIII created the Anglican Church in England.

Explain how Catholic and Protestants fought religious wars across Europe.

Identify how Catholic kingdoms began sending missionaries overseas to convert people to Christianity.

European Exploration and Expansion in Asia

European Exploration

Describe how Portugal's efforts inspired Spanish exploration.

Explain why Europeans began exploring the world in the 1400s.

Identify the early achievements of Portuguese exploration under Prince Henry the Navigator.

Europeans in India and Southeast Asia

Describe how Portuguese trade expanded into India and the Spice Islands.

Explain how Portugal traded in India.

Identify the English and the Dutch as the challengers to Portugal's power in Asia.



Europe Explores East Asia

Describe Europeans encounters with China and Japan, 1600-1700.

Explain Europeans efforts to expand trade in East Asia.

Exploration: Europe, the Americas, and Africa

Conquest in the Americas

Describe the attitudes and events that led to the Spanish exploration of the Americas.

Explain how the Spanish conquered Mexico.

Identify how the Spanish conquered Peru.

Colonies in Central and South America

Describe how Spain and Portugal colonized the Americas.

Describe how the Spanish ruled their new colonies.

Explain the economic systems of the Spanish colonies.

Colonies in North America

Describe how the rivalry between France and England led to the French and Indian War.

Explain impact of the European colonization on Native Americans.

Identify the European countries that sought colonies in the Americas.

Africa and the Atlantic Slave Trade

Explain what triangular trade was and how it expanded with the growth of the European colonization of North America.

Identify why the slave trade began with the exploration of Africa and the colonization in South and Central America spread to North America.

The Rise of Monarchies

The Increase of Spanish Power

Describe the reign of King Philip II.

Explain why Spain's power began to decline in the late 1500s.

Explain why the Spanish empire grew in the 1500s.

France's Power Peaks

Describe the developments in the 1500s and 1600s that led to the rise of a strong French monarchy.

Describe the rule of King Louis XIV in France.

Monarchies in Russia, Prussia, and Austria

Explain the rise of the Russian monarchy.

Explain why strong monarchs came to power in other parts of Europe.

Limited Monarchy in England

Describe England's strong monarchs in the 1600s and their conflict with Parliament.

Explain the events and outcomes of the English Civil War.

Identify the significance of the Restoration and the Glorious Revolution.



Era: An Age of Revolutions

Enlightenment and Revolution in Europe

The Age of Exploration

Describe how the Europeans set up colonies and created joint stock companies to increase trade.

Explain how trade, technology, and the rise of strong kingdoms led to a new era in exploration in the 1400s.

Explain why the Portuguese explored Africa and the Spanish, English, and French explored America.

Identify how exploration and trade led to the worldwide exchange of produces, peoples, and ideas.

The Scientific Revolution

Describe how the Scientific Revolution led to new discoveries in physics, medicine, and chemistry.

Explain how European interest in astronomy led to new discoveries and ideas about the universe and Earth's place in it.

Explain how the scientific method, Europeans of the 1600s and 1700s developed new ideas about society based on reason.

Explain how thinkers of the ancient world developed early forms of science and passed this knowledge to later civilizations.

Early Enlightenment

Describe how many of Europe's monarchs, who claimed to rule by the will of God, tried to model their countries on Enlightenment ideas.

Explain why the Enlightenment was centered in France, where thinkers wrote about changing their society and met to discuss their ideas.

Identify how many Europeans believed that the reason could be used to make government and society better.

The American Revolution

Describe how Great Britain faced problems in North America, because the American colonists objected to new British laws.

Explain how European colonies in North America developed differently from each other and from Europe.

Explain why the American colonists formed a new nation, the United States of America.

Industry and Nationalism

The French Revolution and Napoleon's Leadership

Describe how Napoleon Bonaparte used his military success to take control of the French government.

Explain how French radicals used terror to enforce their reforms.

Explain how Napoleon built a huge, but short lived, empire in Europe through military conquest.

Explain why the country had serious economic problems and treated their people unfairly during the French Revolution.

The Industrial Revolution

Describe how the Industrial Revolution spread beyond Great Britain's shores to Europe and the United States.

Explain why the enclosure movement caused the Industrial Revolution in Great Britain.



Society and Industry

Describe how the Industrial Revolution led to new ideas about politics, society, and the economy.

Explain how the scientific discoveries during the Industrial Revolution changed the way people lived and how they understood the world.

Explain why the Industrial Revolution caused cities to grow bigger and changed how people lived and worked.

Identify how artists, writers, and composers reflected the changes that industrialism brought to society.

A Changing World

Nationalism and Expansion in Europe

Describe France after the fall of Napoleon.

Explain how changes in Europe in the early 1800s led to a rise in nationalism.

Explain how European countries expanded their control to other parts of the world.

Identify why the revolution swept across Europe in 1848.

Imperialism in Africa and the Middle East

Describe the causes of the Boer War.

Examine how European powers made claims on the right to rule Africa.

Explain how Africans resisted European colonization.

Identify the reasons for European colonization of Africa.

Imperialism in Asia and Latin America

Describe how Japan successfully resisted Western colonial powers.

Describe the effects of the revolution that brought independence to Latin American countries.

Explain how Britain gained control of China.

Explain how Britain ruled India through the East India Company.

Era: The Modern World

Imperialism and World War I

New Imperialism

Describe how control of India passed from the East India Company to the British.

Describe how the United States became an imperial nation after defeating Spain and taking control of the Philippines and Puerto Rico.

Explain how European nations built empires to help their economy and to spread their ideas.

Identify how European nations ruled almost all of Africa by 1914.

Nationalism in China and Japan

Describe how the arrival of Europeans greatly changed Chinese society.

Explain how Sun Yat-sen introduced ideas that helped caused the collapsed of the Qing dynasty.

Explain what caused the Japanese to reorganized their society and begin building and empire after a visit from the Americans.



World War I Begins

Describe how the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand sparked World War I.

Explain how alliances, militarism, and nationalism led to a crisis in Europe.

Identify how Americans supported the Allies because of pro-British feelings and business links.

World War I Changes the World

Discuss why the Bolsheviks rose to power as a result of the czar's poor leadership.

Explain why America helped the Allies stop the German advance.

World War II and the Cold War

The Rise of Dictators

Describe how economic problems led to militarism in Japan.

Describe how new economic problems led to the Great Depression.

Explain how the Great Depression encouraged the rise of European dictators.

Explain why Stalin established a brutal regime in the USSR after Lenin's death.

World War II Begins

Explain why other European nations stood by as Germany expanded its territory.

Identify why World War II began when Germany invaded Poland in September 1939, leading France and Britain to declare war.

The Victory of the Allies

Describe how the invasion on D-Day was successful in the beginning of the end of World War II.

Discuss why the Nazis murdered millions of people in an attempt to destroy Jews and other European ethnic groups.

Explain why the Allies fought for four long years in Europe and in the Pacific.

The Cold War

Describe how the Cold War spread to Asia after China's communist revolution and the outbreak of the Korean War.

Explain how the Soviets efforts to spread communism led to conflict with the United States, which wanted to contain communism.

Identify how the people in the postwar world experienced prosperity, change, and conflict.

The End of Empire

Describe how the nationalists movement let to independence for many, Southeast Asian nations.

Discuss why many African colonies gained independence in the 1950s and 1960s.

Explain how Gandhi led India to independence from Britain.

The World Today

North America and Europe

Describe the Cold War.

Examine the fall of the Soviet Union and the unification of European nations.

Explain the two hot wars: Korea and Vietnam.

Identify the strong nations and economies of North America.



Latin America

Explain the reasons for the Cuban Revolution.

Explain the revolutions and wars in Central America.

Explain why Mexico has experienced reform but little economic growth in recent years.

Identify unstable governments and economies in South America.

Asia

Describe Japan's recovery from World War II and its strong postwar economy.

Describe the long-standing tensions between India and Pakistan.

Explain China's move toward a more open economy.

Africa and the Middle East

Describe the new countries in Africa and some of the challenges facing African nations today.

Explain the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Identify the importance of oil in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf.

The World in a New Century

Describe the global economy.

Explain the impact of TV and computers.

Explore the major concerns about the world's environment.

Identify the growing threats in the world's security.